

Auricular Hematoma (Cauliflower Ear)

What is it?

An inflammation of the outer ear (auricle) caused by friction. This injury is most commonly seen in wrestlers.

Signs & Symptoms:

Pain, discomfort, swelling, puffy, scar tissue formation looking like a cauliflower

How do we treat it?

There are 2 ways to treat:

1. Go to a doctor to get drained and packed. Getting the ear “packed” just means the doctor will take sterile dressing and use it to compress the area that was drained so that the ear will heal back in a “normal” shape.
2. Using ice to help decrease pain and some of the swelling, but not get it treated by a doctor and live with the deformed ear.



This person did not get the cauliflower ear treated, so his ear will stay like this.

<http://content.nejm.org/content/vol335/issue6/images/small/05f1a.gif>

References:

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